

Mr. Speaker, the answer is simple. All of these groups oppose the outdated milk pricing system currently in effect. And yet soon, Mr. Speaker, this House will take up legislation that will raise milk prices for consumers and will reimpose a Soviet-style dairy policy.

Now, the antireform dairy folks, those who are supporting this legislation, House Resolution 1402, I believe should be ashamed of themselves. Now, there is one thing that we agree upon, myself and those who support H.R. 1402. We agree that our dairy farmers are hurting. No one understands the plight of dairy farmers better than I, better than any of us who come from States like Minnesota and Wisconsin. In the last 10 years, my State of Wisconsin has lost more dairy farms than most States ever had.

Mr. Speaker, to drive the point home in a very real way, please realize this: that by this time tomorrow, by this time tomorrow, Wisconsin will have lost five more dairy farms.

But despite that fact, the fact that we do need to do something, H.R. 1402 is the wrong way to go. It is the wrong way to go because it pits farmer against farmer, region against region, State versus State, through an outdated pricing policy that gives producers more money for their fluid milk based upon their proximity to the City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Second, H.R. 1402 is the wrong way to go because it is based on typewriter era technology. This system was created over 60 years ago, 60 years ago when we did not have the interstate transportation system, when we did not have refrigerated trucks. It is an outdated policy.

The third reason is if, as if we needed more reasons, the third reason to reject H.R. 1402, quite frankly, it is a tax on milk to consumers. As a result of H.R. 1402 and the system it seeks to reinforce and reimpose, our consumers, consumers all across America, working families, will pay more for their milk to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars each and every year.

We should oppose H.R. 1402 because it is antitrade, antifree-market, anti-competitive. At the very time when we are pushing nations all around the world to open up their markets, to become more entrepreneurial, more free-market based, here in this country, this bill would reimpose and reinforce trade barriers. It would block the flow of dairy products between the States. That is wrong-headed.

Finally, we should oppose H.R. 1402 and the system it seems to reimpose because it is absurd. Can my colleagues imagine if we priced oranges based upon the proximity, their proximity of production to the city of Miami, or if we paid more for computer software based upon how far it was located and produced from the city of Seattle, or chocolate from Hershey, Pennsylvania. No, we cannot, because we would never have such an absurd system, and yet,

that is exactly, that is precisely what we do for fluid milk. Producers get more for more fluid milk based upon how close they are to the City of Eau Claire.

It is time for reform; it is time to move into the 21st century using new technologies and market-based forces; it is the time now to reject H.R. 1402, to allow Secretary Glickman's reforms to go into effect.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS BILL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PROMOTING PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN THE CAUCASUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, this House voted to appoint Members to the House Senate Conference for the fiscal year 2000 foreign operations appropriations bill. This evening I want to call on the conferees to support certain key provisions to help the people of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh and to promote the goals of peace and economic growth in the entire south Caucasus region.

During the August recess, several colleagues and I took part in a congressional delegation to the south Caucasus. Our itinerary included stops in Armenia, Nagorno Karabagh, and Azerbaijan. We met with the presidents and other political leaders, American business people and investors and aid workers implementing humanitarian assistance programs. We also had the opportunity to meet with people who had been victimized by the conflicts and the natural disasters that have struck the region.

I hope that our recent visit to Armenia, Nagorno Karabagh, and Azerbaijan has helped to generate added momentum for a negotiated settlement that could open up new avenues for greater regional integration and cooperation. I applaud the fact that the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan have met several times in the last few months in an effort to resolve the Karabagh conflict. In our meetings with all three presidents, we suppressed the importance of direct negotiations maintaining the 1994 cease-fire and other confidence-building measures.

The fiscal year 2000 foreign operations bill approved by the House and the Senate included a number of initiatives that will help to promote regional cooperation, security and economic growth in the southern Caucasus region. I appreciate the works of the appropriators and would ask the conferees to include the following items in the final version of this legislation.

First, Mr. Speaker, I hope the conferees will adopt the Senate earmark of \$90 million for Armenia with a sub earmark of \$15 million for the earthquake zone in the Gyumri area of northern Armenia which is still trying to recover from the devastating 1988 earth-

quake. It is important for the United States to maintain our support and partnership with Armenia as that country continues to make major strides towards democracy as evidenced by the May 30 parliamentary elections, as well as market reforms and increasing integration with the west. U.S. assistance also serves to offset the difficulties imposed on Armenia's people as a result of the blockades maintained by Azerbaijan and Turkey. The needs in the earthquake zone particularly for new housing construction requires special assistance.

I also strongly support the language in the House version directing the Agency for International Development to expedite delivery of \$20 million to the victims of Nagorno Karabagh, those victims residing in Nagorno Karabagh itself through September 30 of 2000. Last month in Stepanekart, I met with the organizations administering these aid programs and was impressed with their needs as well as their ability to deliver necessary services. This assistance previously appropriated, but not yet obligated, is as the House language makes clear not to be provided to the governments of Azerbaijan or Armenia.

I also urge the conferees to adopt the House language stating that the extent and timing of U.S. and multilateral assistance other than humanitarian assistance to the government of any country in the Caucasus region should be proportional to its willingness to cooperate with the Minsk Group and other efforts to resolve regional conflicts. The leaders of Armenia, Nagorno Karabagh, and Azerbaijan all understand the importance the U.S. places on progress being made with the peace process, and I stress the potential for a peace dividend in my discussions with the leaders in August and believe that all countries of the south Caucasus need to be mindful that U.S. assistance is dependent upon movement towards peace.

I also urge that the conferees adopt the House language supporting the confidence-building measures discussed in the April 1999 summit here in Washington in furtherance of a peaceful resolution of the NK conflict especially in the vicinity of Nagorno Karabagh. These measures include strengthening compliance with the cease-fire, studying post-conflict regional development such as transportation routes and infrastructure, establishing a youth exchange program and other collaborative initiatives to foster greater understanding among the parties, and reduce hostilities.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to stress the importance of maintaining section 907 of the Freedom Support Act. There is a clear bipartisan support in both houses for preserving this law which restricts certain direct government-to-government assistance to Azerbaijan until that country lifts its blockades of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

The bottom line is that the conditions for lifting section 907 have not

been met, and I hope the government of Azerbaijan will recognize that it is in Azerbaijan's own interests to lift the blockades so that section 907 will no longer be necessary. In the meantime, Congress must be clear: until steps are taken by Azerbaijan to lift the blockade, section 907 stays.

LET US QUICKLY REJECT THE 13 MONTH FISCAL YEAR

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, from time to time, we hear some pretty wacky ideas in Washington, none wackier than a recent suggestion, apparently emanating from the other body that the Congress adopt a 13-month fiscal year so as to circumvent the budget caps we agreed to back in 1998 which, as I recall, was a standard 12-month year. What will we call the newly created 13th month? Taxember? Spenduary?

And what will our big government friends think of next in their ongoing fiscal assault on hard-working, tax-paying families. An 8-day week? A 30-hour day? With more time for everybody to work for the tax man?

I have a really unique suggestion. Let us keep our promises, stand by the commitment we made to the American people. Let us honor those spending caps that the Congress and the President agreed to only about a year ago. Let us give the American people something they are not accustomed to, a Congress and a President who keep their word. I guess that is something you see only once in a blue moon, or, as they say, only in a 13-month year.

REMEMBERING JIM "CATFISH" HUNTER, HALL OF FAME PITCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week America lost a legendary figure in the game of baseball. The town of Hertford and the State of North Carolina lost a friend and a hero. Hall of Fame pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter passed away, just one year after being diagnosed with ALS, the same disease that took the life of former Yankee first baseman Lou Gehrig.

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Mr. Speaker, Jim "Catfish" Hunter is a grand example of what a sports hero should be. He played baseball because he loved the game. The success he gained was secondary. During his career, no matter how impressive his accomplishments or how great the public recognition, he never forgot his family or his community. In fact, he lived the kind of life that movies are based on.

Jim Hunter was raised in rural eastern North Carolina as the fourth of

eight children. As a boy, he excelled in sports. In high school, professional scouts began taking interest in his pitching skills. Hunter's natural talent and dedication to the game led to a remarkable career which elevated a young country boy to a national sports hero. He was given the name Catfish in 1964 when former Oakland A's Charlie Finley signed the 18-year-old to play baseball.

Hunter admitted that he enjoyed hunting and fishing, and the A's owner apparently insisted on the name Catfish. Jim Catfish Hunter went on to win five world championship rings and a plaque in baseball's Hall of Fame.

As an 8-time All Star, he pitched in 6 World Series, helping to win three championships in Oakland and two more with the Yankees. His 15-year baseball career ended in 1979, but not before he won 224 games, pitched a perfect game, and in 1974 received the American League's Cy Young Award.

Jim Catfish Hunter gained the kind of superstardom that could have changed most men, but he remained the same unassuming man he was when he left Eastern North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, John Ruskin once said, "The first true test of a truly great man is his humility." Mr. Speaker, if this is the test, then Catfish Hunter will certainly be remembered as a great man.

At age 33, Jim Catfish Hunter retired from baseball and moved back to North Carolina, not far from where he was raised, to concentrate on his family. He had married his high school sweetheart Helen, and together they had three children, sons Todd and Paul, and a daughter, Kim. Hunter has been quoted as saying he would have given up all of his money and fame for the health to watch his grandson Taylor grow.

But Jim Hunter was a fighter. Instead of shying away from the disease, he worked to raise awareness of his illness in hopes of finding a cure. In fact, last May, Hunter attended the opening of the Jim Catfish Hunter ALS Foundation in Hartford, North Carolina. The event fell on May 8, the 31st anniversary of his perfect game.

Mr. Speaker, we remember him as more than just a great ball player. He was a wonderful man who loved his family and his community. In fact, I imagine he would like to be remembered as Jim Hunter, the husband, father, grandfather, and friend, rather than Catfish Hunter, the Hall of Fame baseball pitcher.

Today we celebrate his life and the legacy that he has left for future athletes. Mr. Speaker, the Nation and the game of baseball are better off because Jim Catfish Hunter passed this way.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ON THE RELEASE OF FALN TERRORISTS BY THE WHITE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, last week, as some Members of the body know and many Americans know, a number of terrorists that engaged in a reign of terror across this Nation during the seventies and eighties were part of a group known as the FALN, that were responsible and proudly claimed responsibility for 130 bombings, if not more, killing innocent people and maiming innocent people.

It became news in the last several weeks because they were offered clemency by the White House. Despite the fact that they rejected the initial offer of clemency because they thought conditions placed upon them were too humiliating, ultimately they agreed and now they are free, with the exception of two, who rejected the offer.

At the time, those of us who opposed the offer of clemency objected, for a number of reasons. One, these are evil people. They sought to hurt, kill, and maim innocent people. They sought, in a way, the overthrow of the United States government because they did not get their way through a civilized, normal democratic process known as the rule of law, known as elections.

They sought the independence of Puerto Rico. They did not get their way, so they resorted to bombs. They resorted to killing. They resorted to maiming. They were terrorists.

At the time, we brought forward some of the victims: A police officer was blinded for life, another who was blind in one eye, another who lost his leg, another whose husband was killed in the tavern bombing in 1975, another family who lost their father and husband in 1975. We said, we are sending the absolutely wrong signal to terrorists, because we are emboldening people around the world who are going to contemplate terrorism on our soil.

It did not take long, Mr. Speaker. Just a few days ago there was a statement put out by one Filiberto Ojeda Rios. He put out this statement: "If they," the United States, "start bombing Vieques again, and they threaten